Three new campus additions for ’02–’03

BY MICHAEL TERRAZAS

When President Bill Chace was inaugurated in 1995, he made a pledge that has since become infamous: He promised an end to construction on the University campus.

The pledge has gone unfulfilled—and Chace certainly wouldn’t be luckier. Nearly a dozen major capital projects have broken ground on Emory’s main campus, and the new facilities provide the space and equipment Emory needs to continue its role as one of the nation’s top research universities.

Three major projects will be completed during the 2002–03 academic year, addressing student housing, science education and the performing arts, and each will prove integral to future fulfillment of the University’s mission.

Clairmont Campus

Anywhere else, higher education knows that, when it comes to student housing, “residence halls” is no longer a euphemism for dormitory. University students today expect their residences to be just that, not one-room dorm rooms with bunkbeds and open closets.

Starting this fall, Emory upperclassman and graduate students are able to enjoy all the comfort and amenities of apartment living without ever having to leave campus—Clairmont Campus, that is.

Formerly named University Apartments, the 18.5-acre tract northeast of Emory’s main campus has been completely transformed in the past few years and now plays a key role not merely in student housing but in a range of University activities, both academic and operational.

To be sure, Clairmont Campus is primarily a residential facility, with a total of 1,520 bed spaces. A typical undergraduate unit features four single-bedrooms, two baths and a full kitchen and living room. Graduate units are basically one- and two-bedroom apartments, and there are even 18 “professorial” units in the graduate housing to provide living space for faculty and staff members.

But the rest of the campus will be much more than just an empty space; also going up is a $9.6 million Student Activities and Academics Center that will feature athletic facilities like indoor and outdoor basketball courts, an Olympic-size swimming pool and tennis courts, along with classroom and office space as well as dining facilities complete with an outdoor patio overlooking the adjacent athletic field. The campus also is home to the University’s largest parking deck (which houses administrative space for the facilities management and transportation offices) and a brand-new child care center.

The renovated Clairmont Campus (top) is primarily a residential facility, though its Student Activities and Academics Center will provide both recreational and classroom space for Clairmont residents; above, the just-opened Math & Science Center provides an attractive new home for the Emory College departments of environmental studies, math and computer science, and physics.

The Math & Science Center

Emory’s Math & Science Center opens the door to a new era of science education and research for the University. From pristine physics laboratories in the basement to a rooftop environmental classroom and observatory, the building gives faculty and students unprecedented opportunities for learning, teaching and research.

The five-story, $40 million, 138,000-square-foot facility is the new home for the departments of physics, mathematics and computer science, and environmental studies—housed together for the first time. Students began attending classes there this fall.

The exterior echoes Emery’s signature Henry Hornshelm architecture, while the interior features the latest in technology. In addition to multimedia classrooms, offices and laboratories, the building includes the University’s first planetarium, a 180-seat lecture hall and a rooftop observatory with a 24-inch telescope.

“The center is going to make science very different at Emory,” said Bobby Paul, interim dean of Emory College. “By housing the departments together, the synergy among the disciplines will allow new opportunities to emerge that will provide a better education for students, and foster even more creative research ideas.”

Nearly 25 percent of the building is used for laboratory space, with 17,055 square feet devoted to teaching labs and 15,918 for research labs. The Math & Science Center also is on track to become the second facility in the Southeast to be certified by the U.S. Green Building Council (see sidebar); the first happens to be Emory’s Whitehead Biomedical Research Building, finished in 2001.

Schwartz Center for Performing Arts

Though ground wasn’t officially broken for the Donna and Marvin Schwartz Center for Performing Arts until October 2000, plans for an arts center at Emory have been in the works since Calvin Coolidge was in the White House. A campus plan drawing from 1926 shows a suggested arts center on the site of the current Administration Building.

When it officially opens its doors in February 2003, the Schwartz Center will provide the first central space for Emory’s rapidly growing music, theater and dance programs. The 90,000-square-foot facility will include a world-class concert hall, a theater lab for the development of new works, and a dance studio.

“I am simply delighted that this campus, its students and teachers—as well as the surrounding community—will at last have the opportunity to show forth the artistic gifts and skills represented at Emory,” Chace said. “This is a strikingly attractive platform from which will soon come the best that artistic ingenuity can create. I am proud that the Schwartz Center is now part of Emory, and I am grateful for all the energy and generosity that have gone into its creation.

Each of the facility’s performance spaces is designed to encourage student learning as well as inspire professional performance and development of new work. Equipped with an orchestra pit and choral balcony, the 825-seat Cherry Logan Emerson Concert Hall will become the home stage for Emory ensembles while also accommodating world-renowned performers from Emory’s Flora Jennings Canary Series.

The theater lab, with a maximum seating capacity of 135, will be the new home for the Emory Playwriting Center. It also will provide a unique environment for Theater Emory performances and a teaching laboratory for the theater studies department.

Music and the aroma of Middle Eastern and Asian cuisine—all part of the Center for International Living to be housed there. Originally proposed by the Institute for Comparative and International Studies, the center is the first of what will be a series of thematically designed residence halls developed for Clairmont.

When students walked into Emory’s new Math & Science Center at the start of fall semester, they stepped into one of the “greenest” buildings in the country.

Emory’s newest facility is on the way to become the second building in the Southeast to achieve LEED certification, or that being designed, renovated or remodeled according to LEED principles, for a total of about 1.7 million square feet (162.5 acres) of space. And the University has been selected to participate in a pilot program to assess the effectiveness of applying LEED principles to existing structures.

Capital projects are not the only area in which Emory has been recognized for its environmental awareness. The University’s recycling and alternative transportation program recently was awarded national awards for its efforts.

Internally, Emory is working on an implementation plan for its recently approved mission statement: an energy-conservation project launched last fall by Emory College looks to cut energy consumption by 10 percent or more, and several groups of faculty, staff and students have sprung up in recent years to address environmental challenges.

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